



# The Shepherd's Staff

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
106 May Street  
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March 2026

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**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT: MARCH 11th, A.D. 2012**

***THEME: The difficulty of "unanswered prayer".***

*The following homily was written by Reverend Charles J. Higgins, Pastor - Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish Newton/Needham, Massachusetts*

This Introit Psalm which sets the tone for our Lenten Sunday Mass today is the expression of a soul praying to God in the midst of great distress — indeed, it is the prayer of a soul who finds itself without any recourse to ordinary means: only God can help.

One thing we are taught with certainty, and which is reinforced with great emphasis during these days of Lent, is that God will always respond to the humble prayer of faith. Think of it: God commands us to pray so that He might help us. When Christ's disciples asked of Him, "Lord, teach us how to pray," He taught them that perfect prayer of petition which is the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father (the "Pater Noster" in Latin). To put it simply, through Our Lord Jesus we are both commanded and invited to ask of God every worthy thing — no matter how small and personal to us.

The difficulty is, of course, as every person who struggles with the life of faith knows, prayers do not work like magic with God. We are commanded to pray and yet many of the things we pray for remain seemingly unanswered — and I stress that phrase seemingly unanswered, because, in truth, there is no such thing as an "unanswered prayer".

I want to consider then, how are we to make sense of the difficulty of seemingly unanswered prayer. Why is it that certain prayers seem to be unanswered by God?

First of all, we have to discount prayers which are made with a bad heart and are not reflective of faith. (In St. Luke's Gospel, Chapter II, for example) there were those who when Jesus delivered a man from a demonic spirit, they attributed it to the power of Satan: "He casteth out devils by beelzebub, the prince of devils. And others, tempting, asked of Him a sign from heaven." At other times and places, such as in his own town of Nazareth, Our Lord could work few miracles on account of their lack of faith.

Why? Because He had not the power? No, because He would not act where he did not find humble hearts. Where He found defiance and a "show me" attitude, He held back. And so God does...

Secondly, God will reject prayers for bad or foolish things, or that betray a fundamentally unreal approach to the duties of life — the prayer to win it big in the lottery for example.

But what about prayers, our prayers, that do come from faith, and with an awareness of our unworthiness, and yet seem to be unanswered? Three things.

- 1) God may grant it, but not right away. For the sake of a greater good, especially our own, He will require us to pray for an intention a long time, maybe even a very long time. Yes, it is a test. And we just have to accept that.
- 2) God may refuse it. There was nothing wrong in us asking, but for whatever reason, God's answer was no.
- 3) Finally — and this is crucial — God is saying yes, but at first glance it looks to us as if He's not hearing or He's not doing good by us.

It's like this. We can only ask according to what seems best to us. But our viewpoint is so small. We're limited human creatures and our thinking is often muddled and mistaken about the truth of things. We don't see what God sees so we never really know what's best for us. We have to trust in His Goodness and His Mercy. And when it comes to the life of prayer, we have to grasp this saying of Saint Ambrose: "God always gives more than He is asked."

So, do not lose heart in praying to God. He is hearing you and He is answering you. There is no such thing as an unanswered prayer. Pray in the spirit of the opening verses of Psalm 24(25): "To thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul: in thee, O My God, I put my trust. Let me never be put to shame." **Fr. Higgins**

## Sunshine News :

For our **midweek services** this year we will gather on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM for a soup supper followed by an evening prayer service and Bible study. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex each week for volunteers to provide soup and bread. For our Bible study this year, we will continue the study of Matthew that was started during Advent. We will meet on the following Wednesdays: February 25, March 4, March 11, and March 25.



The women of the Fairfax Lutheran Parish will be hosting a **World Day of Prayer Service** on Friday, March 6, at 6:30 PM, at St. Nicholas Lutheran Church, Fairfax. Following the service, there will be a time of food and fellowship.

The **American Red Cross** will be at Good Shepherd for a blood drive on Monday, March 9, from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Come out and give the gift of life! Contact the Red Cross for an appointment.

The **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on **Saturday, March 28**, at 10:00 AM at the church. Volunteers will be needed to help with the day's activities and with food preparation. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex. We will be stuffing eggs for the egg hunt on Sunday, March 22, after the worship service.

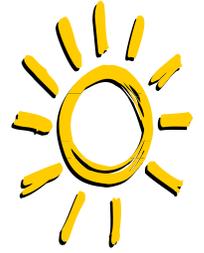
**Applications for camp scholarships** are now available, along with the guidelines for the application. These scholarships are for children attending one of the Novus Way Camps this summer: Lutheridge, Lutherock, or Luther Springs. Please see Diane Wicker for applications. The deadline for receiving applications is **May 1**.

The **Sanctuary Candles for the month of March** are given by Rob and Amy Rusnak to the honor and glory of Our Lord.

The cost of sanctuary candles is **\$25** per month.

## Sunshine News : (Continued)

Our **Loose and Special Designated Offerings for March** will support our **Lutheran Retreat Centers in South Carolina**, which consists of **Camp Kinard** (Batesburg-Leesville, SC) and **Coastal Retreat** (Isle of Palms, SC). The mission of SCLRC is to provide places of hospitality where congregations, communities and individuals can experience a Christian environment to renew faith, foster fellowship, build memories and encounter the glory of God's creation! This is not a budgeted item, but you can help support the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers by placing loose offering in the offering plate, or by designating your gift for "**Retreat Centers**" on your offering envelope.



## Good Shepherd Women:

The next meeting of the Good Shepherd women will be Monday, March 2, at 6:00 PM at the church. The hostess will be Patty Delaney. Marylyn Praga will have devotions. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

## Worship and Music:

The next meeting of the Worship and Music committee will be Tuesday, March 3, at 10:00 AM at the church. We will be discussing plans for Holy Week and Easter.

## Christian Education:

The next meeting of the Christian Education committee will be Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM. We will discuss plans for the Easter Egg Hunt.



**March 20,  
2026**

## Serving In March :

<b>Lay Reader</b>	Doug Brinson
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Pam Turza
<b>Ushers</b>	Doug Lindstrom / Rusty Mezel
<b>Offering Tabulators</b>	Doug Lindstrom / Rusty Mezel
<b>Alter Guild</b>	Diane Wicker
<b>Audio / Visual</b>	Rob Rusnak / Matt Ferris
<b>Grounds Care</b>	the Praga team
<b>Council Devotions</b>	Doug Brinson
<b>LMM Breakfast / Program</b>	Doug Lindstrom & Sal Praga / Bob Ferris

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Served in February !!!

**\*\*Note:** If you are unable to serve during your month, please be responsible and ask someone to substitute for you.



## Holy Week Schedule 2026:

<b>Sunday, March 29</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b> service at 9:00 am at the Ehrhardt Parish <b>Palm Sunday</b> service at 11:00 am at Good Shepherd
<b>Thursday, April 2</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> service at 7:00 pm at Ehrhardt
<b>Friday, April 3</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> service at 7:00 pm at Good Shepherd
<b>Sunday, April 5</b>	<b>Easter Sunrise</b> service at 7:00 am at Ehrhardt <b>Easter Day</b> traditional worship service with communion at 11:00 am at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Walterboro

## Financial Corner

Well, it seems that Spring is about to spring, but in this month's Financial Corner we're looking at the month of January. At first glance, we overspent our **2026 Spending Plan** for January by about \$1,000. However, a closer look will show that about \$1,700 of the January expenses were annual or quarterly costs, so all is well as we forge ahead into February.

As always, if you have questions concerning the finances of Good Shepherd, please give me a call. And, I hope to see you in person or on-line for church.

Kevin

## January Offering and Gifts:

General Fund	\$ 7,522
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 933
Flowers	\$ 185
Candles	\$ 25
Wallace Fund	\$ 135
Lutheran Homes	\$ 230
Poinsettias	\$ 20
Wish List	\$ 60
Wednesdays Together	\$ 63

## Fund Accounts:

Maintenance Fund	\$ 10,642
Memorial Fund	\$ 2,755
Scholarship Endowment	\$ 12,849
Lommen Love Fund	\$ 7,090
Wallace Estate Fund	\$ 72,049
Social Ministry/Food Pantry	\$ 16,584
Service Committee	\$ 443
Wednesdays Together	\$ 550

**Daylight Saving Time Begins!**  
**(Spring Forward by One Hour)**  
**March 8, 2026**



## Altar Flowers for March :

March 1:	LENT- no flowers
March 8:	LENT- no flowers
March 15:	LENT- no flowers
March 22:	LENT- no flowers
March 29:	Palm Sunday (Greenery)

*Please complete a "Flowers for Sunday" form, located in the narthex, at least one week prior to your designated week. Cost of flowers is \$45 each week. Place a check in the offering plate to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church designated "flowers."*

## Social Ministry .....

One of the vital ministries of Good Shepherd in our community is our **Social Ministry program** which includes our **Food Pantry**. Our Food Pantry is under the direction of Doug Lindstrom and is supported with the "sweat equity" of numerous volunteers (Doug L, Janet, Linda, Sal, Marylyn, Marilyn, Thomas, Maria, Pr. Judy, and Kevin) who help to transport, sort, pack and distribute food to households in need in our community. In 2025 we distributed to our guests approximately 2,000 food bags and 2,400 pounds of pet food, plus books, magazines, devotional books, and calendars. The pet food was donated by the **Friends of the Colleton County Animal Shelter** and **Thrivent** donors, and the reading materials were all donated from various people.

Our food purchases were funded last year by gifts from **Good Shepherd members** as well as from **Bethel Presbyterian Church**, the **Eastern Star**, the **Elks**, **Good Shepherd Lutheran Men** and **Lutheran Women**, as well as grants from **Wittenberg Lutheran Church (Leesville)**, **Thrivent Financial**, the **SC Synod** and the **ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread program**. Our total food expense for 2025 was \$16,300. In addition we helped several people with power bills, water bills, and gasoline needs.

As we begin 2026, we are in constant need of funding as none of these funding sources are guaranteed, and some of these grants will not be available this year. We are also in need of volunteers to support this ministry. If you have questions, please contact Doug Lindstrom.

## The True History of St. Patrick's Day

*By Erin Cavoto and Macie Reynolds*

You're probably not surprised to learn that St. Patrick's Day hasn't always been a raucous affair, celebrated with huge parades and green beer. As the feast day of Saint Patrick, it was and still is a holy day in Christianity. The day was first established in 1631 as a modest religious holiday, and honoring Ireland's patron saint. Because it fell right in the middle of Lent, people began using it as a reason to celebrate and take a break from the restraints and abstinence of the period leading up to Easter. However, it didn't actually become a public holiday in Ireland until 1904!

The St. Patrick's Day celebrations we recognize today are actually a product of Irish immigrants in America. Parades sprung up in major U.S. cities in the 1700s, including Boston and New York City. As Irish populations grew in America, so did St. Patrick's Day festivities. During the 1900s, Americans on March 17 were wearing green clothes, eating corned beef and cabbage (despite it not being a popular dish in Ireland!), and attending massive parades across the country.



## DESIGNATED GIFTS

*Donations are given to the Glory of God :*

### Food Pantry

*Given by:*

**Janet Szymanski**

*Given by:*

**Kathie Whetsell**

*In Memory of:*

**Frances Barton**

*In Honor of:*

**Pr. Judy McGuire**

We offer our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of **Mrs. Frances Barton**, who passed away peacefully early Thursday morning, February 12, 2026. Frances served God faithfully, knowing and loving her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Walterboro, before becoming a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She was a volunteer at the Good Shepherd's Food Pantry, Vacation Bible School, and was always there to cook a meal for anyone in need. May God grant her eternal rest and ease the suffering of her family and friends.

# **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **Wish List - March**

\* Many thanks to Maria Rodriguez for donating the Handicap Parking Signs \*

### **Current Wish List Items :**

- Kitchen Items: We are seeking replacements for our worn and well-loved utensils, and other miscellaneous needs. Contributions of any denomination are welcome.
- 2” Faux wood cordless blinds for Parlor (need 1) \$81.00
- Handicap Parking Signs – to replace faded ones (need 2 ) \$12.00 for the pair.
- Batteries for the Sound System and Smoke Detectors:
- AA alkaline batteries (16 count): 3 packages at \$19.00 per pack
- 9V alkaline batteries (4 count): 2 packages at \$18.00 per pack

### **Stamp Donations Needed**

There is a continual need for postage stamps to support our church’s ongoing activities. You can help by donating actual stamps or making a monetary contribution to assist with their purchase.

- Roll (100 stamps): \$78.00
- Half Roll (50 stamps): \$39.00
- Book (20 stamps): \$15.60

If you are interested in sponsoring any of our current wish list items or would like more information, please contact:

Marylyn Praga                      Phone: 518-768-8207  
Email: Mip8207@aol.com

Thank you for your support!

*Your Church Council*

## **February Council Meeting Notes:** 2-8-2026

Doug Lindstrom called the meeting to order and Pam Turza opened with a devotion and prayer.

- Council heard reports from Pastor Judy, Finance, Property and Grounds, Christian Education, WELCA, Lutheran Men, Social Ministry and Card Ministry.
- Pastor Judy McGuire had a very busy month visiting parishioners in Walterboro, Ehrhardt, Bamberg and Lodge combined with a potential exposure to the flu. She also conducted a funeral for a long-time member in Ehrhardt. Lent season promises to be busy as well: Ehrhardt/Mt. Pleasant will be holding their Lent services on Sunday afternoons while Good Shepherd’s will be our usual Soup and Study Service on Wednesdays (February 25, March 4, March 11, March 25. There will be no meeting on March 18).
- Welcome new council member Patty Delaney.
- Kevin Wicker provided the financial report.
- Doug Lindstrom covered the Red Cross Blood Drive dates for 2026. These will be available in the newsletter as they occur.
- Kevin Wicker gave a Property and Grounds Report. Church water sources have been winterized. Committee is looking into way to alleviate front yard erosion.
- Lutheran Men in Mission will be providing food for Shrove Tuesday.
- Social Ministry – We had sixty to sixty-five people show up for the Food Bank last time. Church has received lots of donations from Bethel Presbyterian who have been very supportive of the food pantry over the years.
- WELCA-Spaghetti Dinner is Sat Feb 28<sup>th</sup>
- Wishlist: Two new handicapped parking signs have been donated to the church.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Your Council members are Doug Lindstrom (Chair), Matt Ferris (Vice Chair), Rob Rusnak (Secretary), Doug Brinson, Jon Carpenter, Marylyn Praga, Rusty Mezel, Pam Turza and Patty Delaney.

## **LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT FOR :**

### **Good Shepherd Family**

Pat Ostendorf, the Vendricks, Roberta McCullough, Jim & Ilona Strickland, the family of Frances Barton, Ted Avant, Gail & Carl Lindstrom, Donna Murphy and family, Winfield & Merri Simons, Maria Rodriguez, Pastor Craig & Georgia Boehlke, Doug Brinson, Bill Turza

### **Friends and Family**

Gary Bunch, Carolyn Rahn, Laura Spivey, (Janet Szymanski), Jean Strickland, Katrina Fryar, (Ray and Theresa Strickland), Don Rivers, Chuck Hackman, (Kevin Wicker), Lauren and Jonathan Porter, Autumn, (Kathie Whetsell), Dee, Cecil and Mike, Benny, Skip (Sal & Marylyn Praga), Alex Green (Maria Rodriguez's granddaughter), Alex Wood, Doug Wood, (Pam Turza), Hazel Miller, Bonnie Roberts (Cheryl Clayton), Austin Murdaugh (Connor Smyly) Joanne Perrin, Bishop Ginny Aebischer

**If you would like to place someone on the prayer list** that is printed in the bulletin, please fill out a prayer request form, found in the narthex, and drop it in the offering plate or give it to Diane Wicker. The prayer list is updated every three months. You may also email your prayer requests to [thewickers@lowcountry.com](mailto:thewickers@lowcountry.com).

## **Lutheran Men in Mission :**

Ten men met for food and fellowship on Sunday Feb 8 at 9 AM in the church fellowship hall. Kevin and Donnie had the breakfast and Donnie had the program. He discussed the value of having a reference work like Eerdman's Handbook of the Bible as an aid for Bible study.

As usual, the men will be cooking up some pancakes and sausage for our Shrove Tuesday celebration. Once the weather warms up, Mr. Bob and Mr. Sal will be giving the USS Good Shepherd a new finish.

Our next meeting will be March 15th (note that would be the third Sunday) at 9 AM in the church social hall. All men are welcome to attend!